

MAY 9 1961

WILKES-BARRE, PA.  
TIMES LEADER-NEWS

E. 49,483

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A Global View

## A Weak U. S. Is 'Progressive'; A Strong U. S. 'Imperialistic'

President Kennedy is finding out the hard way that international "prestige" is a poor yardstick for measuring the success or failure of foreign policy.

How is prestige measured, anyway? When the President first assumed office, influential "liberals" and leftists believed he would adopt a soft policy toward the Communist bloc. Richard Crossman, Britain's "socialistic" gadfly, described the President in the pro-neutralist "New Statesman" as a "great liberal."

However, after the Cuban fiasco, the "New Statesman" was quick to denounce Kennedy as "guilty of a barefaced attempt to overthrow a neighboring government by force."

India's Prime Minister Nehru, whose views are often confused by his profound neutralism, also strongly criticized the rebel landing in Cuba as American "intervention."

But Nehru had second thoughts — and even some kind words for Kennedy — as soon as the landing turned out to be a tragic failure!

Had the Cuban freedom fighters succeeded in overthrowing Castro — with or without the aid of the Central Intelligence Agency — President Kennedy would have been written off in the biased history of the neutralists and leftists as an "American Imperialist."

Since the anti-Castro revolt failed, the President is again in the good graces of the "New Statesman" and Prime Minister Nehru.

In other words, a weak United States

is "progressive;" a strong United States is "imperialist."

To be sure, the views of the neutralists are not always consistent. They have an entirely different yardstick to measure prestige in the case of Soviet Russia.

When the Hungarian freedom fighters revolted against Moscow in 1956, even such pro-Communist "neutralists" as the French existentialist philosopher Jean Paul Sartre turned their backs on the Kremlin.

But no sooner did Premier Khrushchev crush the Hungarian revolt than Sartre and his "fellow humanitarians" began to crawl back into Moscow's "progressive" fold.

In other words, as the neutralists and "liberals" see it, a weak Russia is "imperialist" but a strong Communist Russia is "progressive."

There is no doubt that, in the coming months, President Kennedy's prestige will rise and fall depending on the strength or weakness of his foreign policy.

Should the President withhold aid from the Cuban freedom fighters or accept the pro-Communist Prince Souvanna Phouma as the "neutralist" premier of Laos, he will be glorified by the neutralists as a "great liberal."

However, should he adopt a strong pro-American and anti-Communist foreign policy in Cuba, Laos, Vietnam and elsewhere, he will surely be denounced as a "barefaced imperialist."

The above editorial also appeared

in the following other newspaper : **POUGHKEEPSIE JOURNAL, N.J. — MAY 10, 61**